

Free Weekend Programs - Where Milpitas meets the bay!

The Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Alviso offers FREE weekend activities!
For reservations, call (408) 262-5513 Website: www.fws.gov/desfbay/



October & November

Fall 2011



Saturday, October 29

Gardening at the EEC Community Service



10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Come help in our native plant garden by removing non-native plants, pruning, mulching, or various other jobs that help protect wildlife and clean up our gardens. We'll be starting preparations for planting native species. Bring your own gloves or borrow a pair of ours – tools are provided. Dress in layers and bring water and sunscreen. Be prepared to get dirty! Ages 9 and up. Participants 18 and under must be accompanied by a chaperone. Please call Debra for reservations at 408-262-5513 ext. 102.

Saturday, October 29

All About Owls

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Learn all that you've ever wanted to learn about owls here at the Refuge! Where do owls eat? How do we not hear them when they flap their wings? Are owls the brainiacs of the bird world? Through an interactive presentation and owl pellet dissection, we'll find the answers to all these questions! Paul Bridges will lead the way. Please call Debra at ext. 102 for reservations.

Sunday, October 30

Astonishing Owls



1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

A small variety of owls frequent the Refuge – learn all about them during this program. We will explore the unique adaptations of these birds of prey that make them the most feared hunters of the sky. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from a speaker, go on a guided walk, and dissect owl pellets to find out how owls feed and digest prey animals. Reservations recommended – All ages are welcome. Call Eric at ext. 104.

Sunday, November 6

Mysteries of Wastewater Treatment

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The San Jose-Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant treats hundreds of millions of gallons of wastewater from millions of people every day using some of the most advanced treatment technologies available. Come and learn about what it takes to make this interesting process happen through a slideshow and hands-on activities at the Refuge. RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED – All Ages are welcome. Call Eric at ext. 104. (There will not be a tour of the Water Pollution Control Plant as a part of this program.)

Saturday, November 12

Explore the Weep



10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join expert microbial ecologist, Wayne Lanier, who will take you on a short van ride to study microbial communities. The Weep is a shallow persistent pond fed by seepage. Over the year it undergoes very wide swings in salinity, and the result is a uniquely rich microbial community of Cyanobacteria, Archeabacteria, Diatoms, Dinoflagellates, and Protozoa. Boots are recommended! Ages 10 and up. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – please call Debra at ext. 102.

Saturday, November 12

Webelos Naturalist Badge

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Anyone out there need to earn a Naturalist badge? We've got the program that's right for Webelos! Learn about birds, migration, flyways, food chains, human impact, and the importance of wetlands. Then take a walk and use our binoculars to spot birds in the wild. Maximum ratio of 1 adult for every 5 children. Space is limited to 20 people and program fills quickly. Please call Debra at ext. 102. (Note: badges are not provided)

Saturday, November 12

Night Sky Party!



6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meet the stars of Autumn! Join our amateur astronomers as we learn about constellations. Make a star chart and then venture outside to view the night sky through a telescope. Afterwards, warm up with some hot chocolate. Bring your own binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Dress warmly, as it gets cold in the evening. Fun for the whole family! RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - please call Debra at ext. 102.

Sunday, November 13

Beginning Bird Drawing



11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Life on the 'Blue Planet' would not be possible without our most precious resource, water. Join us at the EEC to learn more about the unique properties of water through hands-on activities, a presentation, and a guided wetlands walk. We will investigate what makes water such an important resource to people and wildlife, and probably get a little wet too! RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED – All ages are welcome. Call Eric at ext. 104.

Saturday, November 19

Community Service

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please see previous description on October 29th.

Saturday, November 19

Water, Water, Everywhere



1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

How much water is there and where does it come from? How much of the Earth's water supply can we use? Learn about the water cycle and watersheds. Build a model of a watershed and see if you can predict where the water will go. Best suited for ages 9 and up. Led by Ed Kantack. Please call Debra at ext. 102 for reservations.

Saturday, November 19

Why Tides Matter



3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please see previous description on September 24th.

they? How do they affect wildlife? How have humans reshaped the Bay's tidal lands? Program starts indoors but will move outside for an easy 0.5-mile walk. All are welcome.

It is the policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Trails are generally level. Surface and trail conditions vary. Please call for details at 408-262-5513.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling 408-262-5513 and the extension indicated in the description.